

(e) and (f) No such instance have come to notice where exgratia relief has been drawn but not paid to migrants.

Declaration of Backward Area

152. COL. (RETD) SONARAM CHOUDHARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the districts and area of Rajasthan declared backward during last three years;

(b) reasons for not declaring areas as backward where majority of the people live below poverty line;

(c) whether Barmer and Jaisalmer district of Western Rajasthan also fulfill all the conditions for declaring them as backward area;

(d) if so, whether the Government intends to declare Barmer and Jaisalmer districts as backward areas; and

(e) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNMALA D. SAVANOOR): (a) to (e) The Finance Act, 1994-95 provides for 100% tax holiday for initial five years in case of industrial undertakings located in notified industrially backward districts, if the undertakings begins to manufacture or produce articles or things or to operate its cold storage plant or plants from 1.10.1994 to 31.3.1999. This tax holiday is provided under Section 80-IA of the Income-tax Act, 1961. Two study groups were constituted in the Ministry of Finance for identification of industrially backward districts for the purposes of granting 100% tax holiday under section 80-IA of the Income-tax Act. These study groups submitted their reports in 1994 and 1996 respectively. The reports of these groups are under consideration of the Government for notifying the industrially backward districts of the country.

Scholarship to Foreign Students

153. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have worked out a comprehensive plan to provide educational facilities to expand, strength and re-structure the present scheme for providing opportunities and scholarships to foreign students from neighbouring/developing countries as part of the strategy of strengthening friendly relationship through ICCR;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the plan and estimate of funds earmarked for the implementation of the project provided to ICCR for the scheme;

(d) whether performance under the scheme has been reviewed objectively; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action plan for the year 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The ICCR offers around one thousand scholarships for foreign students to study in India broadly under three categories: (i) General Cultural, (ii) Cultural Exchange Programmes, and (iii) Special Schemes for selected neighbouring countries. In an effort to provide greater opportunity to students from neighbouring countries since 1996-97, 25 more scholarships are being offered to Nepalese students under the Silver Jubilee Scholarship Scheme.

(c) A total expenditure of Rs. 8.5 crores has been spent on these scholarship schemes. The details are as follows:

International Students Division-Welfare Activities for Foreign Students

(Figures in Lakhs of Rupees)

I. Scholarship Schemes	1996-97
1. General Cultural Scholarship Scheme	150.00
2. Commonwealth	40.00
3. Cultural Exchange Programme	250.00
4. Reciprocal	1.00
5. Srilankan Nationals	54.00
6. Mauritius	45.00
7. Bangladesh	130.00
8. ICCR Scholarship	20.00
Total Scholarship Schemes	690.00
II. Welfare Activities for International students	35.00
III. Scholarships under Aid-Nepal & Silver Jubilee Schemes	50.00
IV. Scholarship under TCS of Colombo Plan Scheme	45.00

(d) and (e) There are several ongoing & periodical reviews under the various Committees of the ICCR including Plan of Action & Finance Committee, Governing Body & Office Bearer's Committee headed by the Vice-President of India who is ex-officio President of ICCR. Separately the Ministry of External Affairs reviews the performance of ICCR both as an annual status review exercise & on a long term in policy planning perspective.